



Australian Respiratory Council Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025

The Australian Respiratory Council (ARC) is a charitable, non-government organisation supporting prevention, treatment and research into tuberculosis (TB) and respiratory disease at a national and international level. The focus of the organisation's activities relate to the promotion of lung health and elimination of TB within Australia and the Asia Pacific Region (the region). The ARC, since the organisation's inception in 1913, has been committed to and invested in research, project and advocacy activities that promote community health.

The ARC is the Australian Heritage Member of the International Union of TB and Lung Disease (The Union) actively collaborating with peak local and global agencies to bring much needed attention to and investment in the global TB elimination agenda, as TB remains, despite the best efforts of many, a significant global public health issue and the leading infectious cause of death globally.

Vision

A world free of preventable lung disease.

Mission

The mission of ARC is to improve lung health in Australia and the Indo-Pacific region through translation of research and evidence-based practice into sustainable health solutions.

Strategies

The ARC will work to achieve the organisation's Vision and Mission through implementation of the following strategies:

- Developing partnerships to strengthen health systems
- Supporting implementation research within the Indo-Pacific region
- Contributing to training and capacity-building of health care workers
- Delivering projects that support TB elimination
- Developing a community focussed on reducing the burden of TB
- Ensuring transparent and robust governance of our organisation.

1. Developing partnerships to strengthen health systems

The ARC will invest in and undertake activities to demonstrate the organisation's role as an internationally-recognised implementation partner for health system strengthening in the region through:

- Building organisational knowledge and expertise in capacity building and health system strengthening
- Actively participating in activities and projects that build capacity to improve efforts that contribute to the delivery of best-practice care for people with TB or lung disease within health systems (including service delivery, health workforce, information, medical products, vaccines and technologies, financing, and leadership/governance).

2. Supporting implementation research within the region

The ARC will support implementation research to promote lung health and underpin TB elimination in Australia and the region with the aim of creating a research-enabling environment that streamlines and expedites innovation and promotes collaboration across research groups. It will promote the introduction of new tools to prevent, diagnose and treat lung disease and TB in all its forms. It will support implementation research by:

- Working in partnership with agencies to create the knowledge required to eliminate TB in Australia and the region
- Funding research initiatives that contribute to lung health through the ARC Research Support Grants
- Identifying opportunities to participate in collaborations to promote the respiratory health research agenda
- Supporting and contributing to the work, activities and outcomes of the Australasian Clinical TB Network (ACTnet)
- Implementation of an activity (in collaboration with research partners such as ACTnet and the TB Centre for Research Excellence (TB CRE) to support early career researchers.

3. Contributing to training and capacity building of health care workers

The ARC will coordinate, contribute to and collaborate in training and development for building capacity of health care workers within Australia and the region through:

- The development and implementation of formal training programs, including the Graduate Diploma/Masters In Nursing (TB Management) in collaboration with the Western Sydney University, School of Nursing and Midwifery
- Development of a scholarship program to support specialist training and education of health care workers working within fields that contribute to TB elimination and the promotion of lung health
- The development of information, education and communication resources for training of health care providers and community workers within National TB Programs (NTPs)
- The provision of mentoring, technical advice and clinical support for staff of the NTPs within the region
- Collaboration with the United States (US) Center for Disease Control and Prevention to undertake training of nurses and community workers from the US Affiliated Pacific Islands.

4. Delivering projects that support TB elimination

The ARC supports, funds and delivers projects within Australia and the Indo-Pacific region that contribute to the elimination of TB and the promotion of lung health by:

- Working with regional partners and stakeholders to develop, implement and evaluate projects that build local capacity to deliver TB care within existing and established health systems
- Collaborating as an implementation partner to deliver projects that contribute to the elimination of TB nationally, regionally and globally
- Providing technical advice and financial support for stakeholders and partners to undertake project activities within ARC's areas of interest
- Developing partnerships that contribute to ARC's global advocacy role.

5. Developing a community focussed on reducing the burden of TB

The ARC will work to build a community focussed on reducing the burden of TB by:

- Building professional engagement through collaboration with local, regional and global agencies to create opportunities to promote and progress the TB elimination agenda.
- Developing opportunities to promote innovative approaches to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of TB for affected people and communities
- Raising awareness within the Australian community and government about the human suffering and socioeconomic burden associated with TB
- Working with stakeholders and partners, people and communities impacted by TB to develop a national social support strategy
- Working with government and other stakeholders to promote an ongoing commitment to supporting the development of new vaccines, diagnostic tools and drugs to fight TB
- Building a national profile and membership base in every Australian State and Territory
- Undertaking advocacy activities to promote and represent programmatic needs of the National TB Programs within the Indo-Pacific region.

6. Ensuring transparent and robust governance

The ARC will implement and maintain activities and processes based on strong and transparent governance as required by legislative requirements by:

- Implementing and maintaining a governance structure that is underpinned by engagement, transparency and accountability
- Ensuring the Board composition reflects expertise in the organisational activities and contributes skills and knowledge to the effective operation of the organisation
- Requiring the stakeholders and agencies that the organisation works with reflect, embody and operate in accordance with legislative requirements and the Code of Conduct implemented by the ARC
- Developing and monitoring policies and procedures that guide effective and efficient practices and outcomes for activities of the organisation
- Operating in a collaborative, open and sharing environment.

Organisational Values

The values that ARC strives to reflect and embody in activities, partnerships and practices include the following:

- Accountability to stakeholders
- Ethical and sustainable practice
- Credibility and professionalism
- Consultative and participatory practices
- Leadership in respiratory health
- Maintaining a development-based focus
- Contributing to intellectual and professional development of staff and volunteers
- Implementing evidence-based practices and activities that are community led, innovative, efficient, caring, compassionate and respectful of people and the communities within which they live.